Degree/Diploma in Education til! they superannunated and have. been allowed to draw pension and the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS, (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The meritorious candidates, having the prescribed marks in accordance with the recruitment rules and not having Degree/Diploma in Teaching/Education, if selected, are being placed *on* trial basis intially for a period of two years which may be extended only in exceptional cases by the appointing authority for a total period not exeeding 5 years from the date of initial appointment or as required, depending on merit of individiual cases. No further extension is allowed.

(b) Necessary details are being collected and will be placed on the Tabic of the House.

Funds for NER for SCERT/DIEt Programmes

732. SHRI W. ANGOU SINQH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allotted *to* each State of North-Eastern Region for the programmes of SCERT;

(b) whether Government have any plan of opening training centres for giving advance training to teachers of the DIET Centres;

(c) if so, when would it be started; and

(d) if not, whether Government would open these specially for the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The amount of funds allotted so far *to* SCERTs in the States of the North-Eastem Region
under Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education is stated below:—

Assam	Rs. 23.50 Lakhs
Manipur	Rs. 25.00 Lakhs
Meghalaya	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
Mi2Qram	Rs. 25.00 Lakhs

Nagaland	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
Tripura	Rs. 50.50 Lakhs

(b) to (d) The Ministry does not have any'plan to open any special centre for training of DIET faculty in any region. In service courses are organised by NCERT, NIEPA, SCERT and other institutes for DIET faculty from time to time.

Education for all the Children

733. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of educationally backward districts in the country at present;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps for providing education to all the children in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Though no definition of educationally backward districts is laid down, districts with female literacy below national average as per 1991 census, may be taken as educationally backward. The number of such districts is *261*.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the proceess of formulating the scheme of Serva Shiksha Abhiyan to provide unversal elementary education of satisfactory quality for all by 2010. Planning activities have been toitated and the scheme is likely to be operationalised in the current financial year. Focus has been on low female literacy districts under DPEP and Serva Shiksha Abhiyan will also focus on such districts not covered so far.